



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/555,406	01/04/2007	Yoshinori Sekoguchi	2936-0253PUS1	4629
2292	7590	06/12/2009	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				LEJA, RONALD W
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2836				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/12/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/555,406	SEKOGUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ronald W. Leja	2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE two MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on IDS of 8/13/2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-8, 11-13, 18, 19 & 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 9,10,14-17 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 November 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/2/2005 & 8/13/2007</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

The Disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On Page 5, “Disclosure of the invention” is recommended to be changed to “Summary of the Invention” and on Page 16 of the Specification, “Best mode for carrying out the invention” is recommended to be changed to “Detailed Description”.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 9, 10, 14-17 and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 9 refers to “a third voltage application portion” and a second, but there is no claimed first voltage application portion within the claim, so as to avoid any possible confusion, “a third voltage application portion” should be changed to “a first voltage application portion”. Claim 10 requires a period at the end of the claim. Claims 14-17 refer to second and third transformers with no reference having been made to a first transformer within the claim chain, therefore, to avoid any possible confusion, the transformers should be referred to as first and second transformers. The “third voltage application portion” in Claim 20 should be “a first voltage application portion”.

Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a Statement of Reasons for the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter: The claimed combinations found within Independent Claims 1-3, 7-9 and 18-20 are considered to be allowable over the Prior Art of Record. The combinations are drawn to ion generating elements, ion generating apparatus or an electric appliance having the ion generating apparatus. Each combination require first and second dischargers, both on the same flat surface of a base member but separately from and independently of each other. The combinations of Claims 1 and 2 further require that

the first and second dischargers are on a diagonal line. The combinations of Claims 2 and 3 include further details drawn to the conducting portions around the discharging portions or induction electrodes buried in a dielectric layer. The remaining combinations found within the Independent Claims 7-9 and 18-20 contain further defining structure. The closest Prior Art teaching comes from (JP 08-171977), which teaches the fabrication of more than one discharger upon the same surface of a base or substrate and including the buried induction electrodes. However, there is no teaching or suggestion that the dischargers be separate and independent from each other, as they are taught as having shared induction electrodes. There is also no suggestion that the dischargers be on a diagonal on the first surface of the substrate. It is the opinion of the Examiner that the claimed combinations found within Independent Claims 1-3, 7-9 and 18-20 are novel and unobvious in view of the Prior Art of Record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald W. Leja whose telephone number is (571)272-2053. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rexford Barnie can be reached on (571)272-7492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ronald W Leja/

Ronald W Leja
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2836

/rwl/
June 8, 2009